

MARCH

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2025



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and
roll-over effects

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Click on Slide Image to view an oxymoron slide
See Story of February E-pub oxymoron page 4



The Magic Lantern Calendar –March 2025

Events

March 7, 6:00 p.m. **The “BIBLE”** of Faust by FW Murnau, Illustrated conference by Laurent Mannoni, Conservatory of techniques of the French Cinematheque, French Cinematheque, 51 rue de Bercy, Paris 12th

Mar. 14, 2025, **The Art of the Magic Lantern**, an evening of 19 th century projected images with Dr. Richard Crangle, Old St. Leonard’s Hall – Studios Roberts Road, Exeter EX2 4HD, England.

Mar. 20, 2025, **Magic Lantern Show**, transporting back to the 19 th century through the wonders of a magic lantern show hosted by Dr. Nick Hiley, academic and magic lantern collector, Scarborough Film Festival 2025, Stephen Joseph Theatre, Westborough, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 1JW, England.

Apr. 5-6, 2025, **Spring meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), includes guided tour of the Cinema Museum, a variety of talks and presentations, and a visit to the Teatre-Museu Dali in Figueres, Museu del Cinema, Girona, Catalunya, Spain.

Jul. 2 – 4, 2025, **The World at a Glance: Panoramic and Peep Technologies**, 34 th Conference of the International Panorama Council, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal.

Jul. 17 – 31, 2025, **Harper Thursday and the Magic Lantern**, a theatrical adventure, this enchanting production invites families to embark on a journey filled with wonder and imagination. The Common Room, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE, England.

Jul. 19, 2025, **Summer meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Millennium Hall, Lacey Green, Buckinghamshire, England.

Oct. 18, 2025, **Fall meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Swedenborg House, Holborn, London, England.

Through 2025, **Project Space Residency**, featuring Melissa Ferrari, Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

Jan. 25, 2026, **2026 Annual General Meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Musical Museum, Brentford, London, England.

Sundays through Thursdays, **Salem on Foot: Magic Lantern Tour**, rare and strange images projected upon shadowy walls and darkened streets, bringing life to tales of ghosts and witchcraft and murder. Derby Square, Downtown Salem, MA.

continued next page

Calendar –continued

Exhibits

Through Mar. 22, 2025, **Chronotopia**, artist Sim Chi Yin blurs the boundaries of memory, history, and fate, reappropriating 19 th and 20 th century Magic Lantern slides to conjure an imaginary landscape melding the cosmos and historical South-east Asia. Roslyn Smorgon Gallery, Footscray Community Arts, 45 Moreland St, Footscray VIC 3011 Australia.

Through Aug. 17, 2025, **Words and Wonder: Rediscovering Children's Literature**, a rare look at juvenilia including magic lantern slides from Aesop's Fables, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, 300 West 21 st St., Austin, TX 78712.

Apr. 2025, **MiniCine**, a multimedia installation giving children the opportunity to playfully explore the world of moving images using devices such as the magic lantern, Taartrovers, Buiksloterdijk 398, 1034 ZH Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Through Dec. 29. 2025, **Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildwelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition**, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

Online

Magic Lantern Research Group, Learn about, collaborate on academic research. Monthly on Zoom, 2 nd Thursday, 7:00 alternating with 2 nd Sunday, 4:00. Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Media History Digital Library, <https://mediahistoryproject.org/collections/magic-lantern/> Magic lantern ephemera.

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page. www.magiclanternmuseum.com

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.

The February E-pub Oxymoron

In written language, an oxymoron is a figure of language that displays interconnected opposing ideas. Visual oxymoron is a graphic representation of a contradiction codedigned by those who face that contradiction in everyday life.

In a society of visual storytellers we have found an alert member that brings a focus to the cover of February's E-pub and the visual oxymoron of the first page.

One of the slide images of the cover was anti Valentine Day tiding.

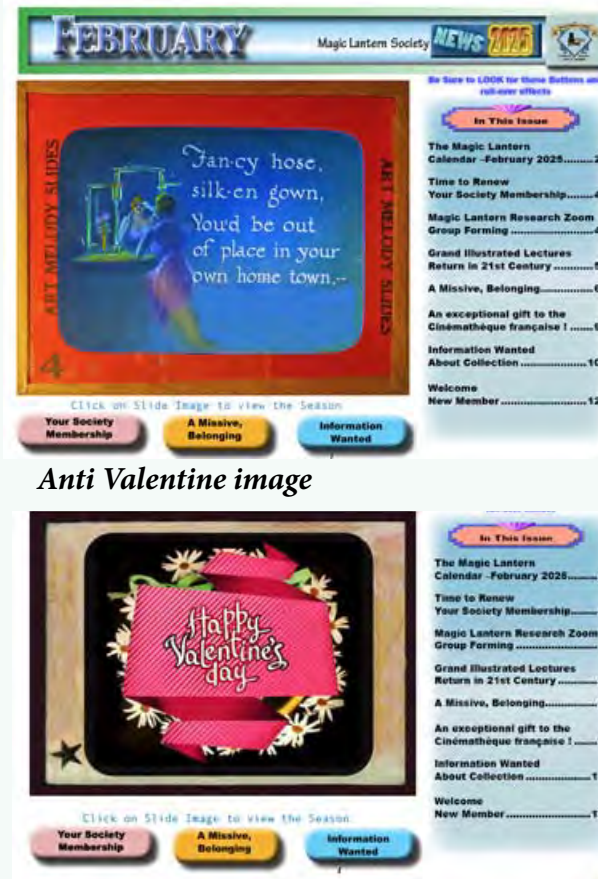
Thanks to our musical member Bob Gregory of North Carolina, who spotted the slide image that was not a Valentine message.

There were three song slides shown before the slide image "Happy Valentines Day." The first two slides conveyed a positive sentiment of love and happiness on the occasion of Valentine's Day, but the third song slide image was from a song with a very different message.

This month's cover has some examples of oxymoron phrases of today. Done to prove we have many examples of oxymoron we take for granted.

In the February issue my use of that particular song slide image was accidental. I just made a quick choice of slide images to work with.

**Do you have any slide examples that might be an oxymoron sample, Please share!
Send images and information to Larry: designerlc@comcast.net**



From Bob Gregory

I couldn't resist. Here are the lyrics to "Nobody's Sweetheart" (see below) as sung by Bing Crosby. It was originally performed by Ted Lewis in a Broadway revue in 1923. The attached sheet music was copyright 1924 – its 100th birthday was last year!!



You're nobody's sweetheart now,
'Cause nobody wants you, somehow;
Fancy hose, silken gown,
You'd be out of place in your own home town!
When you walk down that old avenue,
I just can't believe that it's you!
Painted lips, painted eyes,
Wearin' a bird of paradise!
Well it all seems wrong somehow,
But you're nobody's sweetheart now.

Old Slides

From Matthew G. Schmidt

mgs@nvacc.org

To whom it may concern:

I inherited about 50 Magic Lantern glass slides in wood holders. Some are in very bad condition, but all are dirty. I'd like to clean them, and was looking for the best archival method of cleaning them. I am accustomed to using naphtha and lint-free cleaning swabs for 35mm slides, but don't know that those materials are safe for the Magic Lantern slides.

Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

Matthew G. Schmidt

From David Evans

Hello Matthew

Many wood-mounted slides were hand painted and without cover glasses. If that is the case, any cleaning should be undertaken with great caution. We shall include your question in our next e-publication and will hope that one of our members will be able to offer suggestions.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans



From Ron Easterday

Thanks to many of you that have already renewed your membership for 2025! Our current membership is strong with members in:

Australia: 1	Austria: 1
Belgium: 4	Canada: 7
France: 2	Germany: 3
Italy : 1	Japan: 3
Netherlands: 5	United Kingdom: 6
United States: 93	

If you have not paid for 2025, now is the time. If you have questions regarding your membership status, please just email secretary-treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org.

Annual dues remain at just \$ 50 USD for January 1-December 31.

Pay with one click using this QR code and pay with any major credit card, PayPal, Venmo, or ApplePay.

About 2025 Membership

Payments can also be made via PayPal to secretary-treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org.

Or, if you prefer a traditional check – yea! no money lost in transaction fees - please make your check in US funds to MLS of US & Canada and mail to:

Ron Easterday,
Secretary-Treasurer,
20382 12 th Ave NE,
Poulsbo, WA 98370, USA.

Thanks for your continued support in 2025

Ron Easterday
Secretary-Treasurer
secretary-treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org

MLS Annual Membership



The Early Years of Nickelodeons

Welcoming Women

In the early years of cinema, up until about 1910, the average nickelodeon program consisted of three short movie reels and two or three new popular songs performed by a professional singer. Lantern slides kept audiences entertained as the projectionist changed the film reel or when a projector broke down, as they often did. Slides offered announcements, advertisements, or song lyrics so that audiences could sing along.

These slides also illustrate several ways that the early movie industry contributed to shifting public behavior and opinion about women's roles in society. Several of the slides on display in Hotbed promote movie-going as respectable entertainment appropriate for a middle-class female clientele. As a form of popular amusement, movie-going grew out of déclassé vaudeville, and nickelodeons brought strangers together to sit side-by-side in the dark. As a result, theater owners knew that they would need to police audience behavior to convince "ladies"—and their fathers and husbands—that theaters were safe.



Levi's Perfection Slides, "Ladies without escorts cordially invited." Lantern Slide, New-York Historical Society Library, ca. 1910

Some slides chided men not to swear, whistle, or spit. Others spoke directly to women, asking them to remove their hats, inviting them specifically to matinee performances, and ensuring them that "ladies without escorts" were "cordially invited."

From



In addition, theaters offered a range of gimmicks to attract audiences of women. In 1910, the black-owned American Theatre in Indianapolis, Indiana, promised "a useful and beautiful souvenir...to each lady on opening night." Though theater owners' motives were profit-focused, their campaign to bring "ladies" into the cinema widened the range of options for unaccompanied women to move through public space and attend public amusements while still being seen as "respectable."



Levi's Perfection Slides, "Special attention given to Ladies & Children attending the Afternoon performance." Lantern slide, New-York Historical Society Library, ca. 1910

<https://www.nyhistory.org/blogs/ladies-without-escorts-cordially-invited>

From Amy Whorf McGuiggan

ninepoints@comcast.net

Dear Magic Lantern Society:

I was delighted to find you online and hope that you might be able to help me understand the process.

I am very fortunate to own a lovely collection of lantern slide images of Provincetown, Massachusetts, taken by my great-grandfather between 1910 and 1930. They are also hand-colored which makes them extra charming.



Slide image by Amy's great-grandfather

I have recently had these slides digitized so that I can enjoy them in a more accessible way and am hoping to learn more about how they were made. Though I have the positive slides, I do not have any negatives, nor do I know what kind of camera my great-grandfather used so I cannot determine if the lantern slides were made from glass negatives or film negatives. Given that many of the images are taken from

Lantern Slide Process

a boat or out on a beach, I suspect that the camera would have been one that was small and easy to carry around.

What I am hoping that you might help me with this:

Why type of camera might have been used for the negative image in the 1910-1930 time frame?

Would he have used roll film and then made contact prints to achieve the 3 1/4" x 4" lantern slides?

I have taken two slides apart and the images extend to the edges. The projected view is a bit smaller because there was a window mat placed between the image and the protective glass.

I have several empty boxes for Eastman Lantern Slide Plates and am wondering if these were the glass plates, "dry plates," on which the film negative was exposed and developed?

Any guidance that you might provide will be most appreciated. Thank you very much for your time and effort.

Very best wishes,

Amy Whorf McGuiggan

From Larry Cederblom

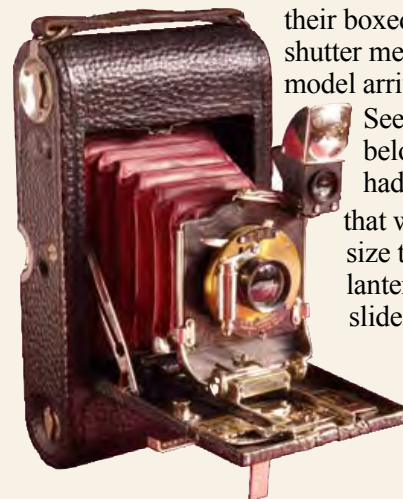
Amy,

My name is Larry Cederblom and I'm working on getting you some information about your great-grandfather's lantern slides. I had a couple of questions. Do you know if your great-grandfather was into photo development or the darkroom process? Can I get a couple of images of his slides?

The images will help me better understand the quality and type of colored slides you have.

Those are great slide images and very well-done coloring.

A possible camera that your great-grandfather might have been using was the Kodak No.3 Folding Pocket Kodak E2 is a development of earlier models introduced in 1900 identified by



their boxed-in leather shutter mechanisms, the E model arrived from 1904.

See photos left and below. This camera had film negatives that would be close in size to an American lantern slide 3.25" x 4".

Larry

<https://licm.org.uk/livingImage/1910Room.html>



continued next page

Lantern Slide Process continued

Was your great-grandfather artistic? The information below is from a website that addresses the directions and skills needed to hand-color slides.

From de Luikerwaal

Directions for Coloring Lantern Slides.

The coloring of lantern slides requires considerable practice and care in order to secure the most satisfactory results. The process is a very delicate one, calling for the careful handling of the gelatin-coated plates and good judgment in selecting and laying on the colors. However, the amateur should not be deterred from taking up the fascinating work, for it can be successfully accomplished with Velox Transparent Water Color Stamps because of the ease with which they may be handled and because of their brilliancy, wonderful blending, and transparent qualities.



Slide image by Amy's great-grandfather

And from

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/50-nifty-finds-13-the-artistry-of-adult-coloring.htm>



Lantern slide coloring department at work. NPS Western Museum Laboratory, January 31, 1934.

From Amy Whorf McGuiggan

Hi Larry:

Thanks so much for your reply. I'm very eager to learn more about the process of making these slides. I pulled one of the slides apart to see how the paint was applied. Also, there were a few edges that were not painted and they show the black & white positive underneath the paint that he began with.

I don't know what my great-grandfather's darkroom facilities were like. He had been taking pictures from the time he was a young boy (1890s) so I assume that he had some kind of home darkroom. I did read that the early cameras that used roll film could be sent back to Kodak – camera and film – for development, so it is possible that the first step of getting negatives was done commercially. I do have the boxes for lantern slide plates (dry plates?) so

I'm guessing that he did his own negative-to-positive transfer, and then did the painting.

The slides came to me many years ago with only a few index cards that described various slides, but everything was mixed up and in the wrong place so even the cards haven't been helpful.

I'm attaching a couple of the images so that you can see what they look like. I hope that they can tell you something about the process.

Again, many thanks for your expertise and time. I will look eagerly forward to your thoughts and advice.

Best wishes,

Amy



Slide image by Amy's great-grandfather

continued next page

Lantern Slide Process continued

<https://winthropmemorials.org/people/notable/whorf/>

From Larry Cederblom

I'm wondering why did he have lantern slides. To have slides meant he might have been sharing the images with large groups in a darkened room with a special projecting device for education, entertainment, and public amusement.

Maybe some historic files in your area documented lantern slide shows back in your great-grandfather's time.

I will add more to my findings and complete a summary article.

Larry

From Amy Whorf McGuiggan

I can't thank you enough for this research. What a lovely camera! Something that size and weight would be conducive to being able to take pictures in a spontaneous way.

Thank you for your thoughts on the hand-coloring. My great-grandfather Harry C. Whorf was a painter, illustrator and graphic designer. (His son, my grandfather John Whorf, was a very well known watercolor painter.) Harry also organized patriotic pageants and did all of the set designs, floats, etc. If you are interested in seeing more, he lived in Winthrop, Massachusetts and the historical society there has a very good page for him with tons of information. There was a very large set of lantern slides that had been taken in Winthrop and which documented many decades of the town. When they were given to the Winthrop Historical Society, they were scanned and made available to researchers.

Town Memorials | Winthrop, Massachusetts

HOME Veterans Wars and Forts Civic Schools Streets and Corners People
Photographic Storefronts Hotels Maps Monuments Search Sources

The Whorf Family in Winthrop

Place, Roots, and Pageants | A Fernside Journal | The Whorf Brothers

When an individual exhibits great talent as an adult it is common to look back to when they were young for clues to help explain what put them on a path to success. Where were they born? Where did they grow up? And most importantly, who were their parents? When there are multiple siblings who each exhibit exceptional talent it leads to the conclusion that something very special happened. In the case of Benjamin, John, and Richard Whorf, there are three brothers who each attained national recognition for their talent, remarkably, each in a different field. All three were born in Winthrop, Mass. All three graduated from Winthrop Public High School. All three were fortunate to have parents, Harry and Sadie Whorf, who both exhibited great intellectual curiosity themselves and encouraged it in their children.

The Whorf family did not stay in Winthrop long, but it is Winthrop that is the original home of an exceptional family. Both parents of the three brothers, Harry Church Whorf (1874-1934) and Sarah Edna Lee (1871-1962), were children when they moved to Winthrop. Harry's parents, Isaiah Atkins Whorf (1848-1901) and Thankful (known as Thannie) Ann (Baker) Whorf (1844-1922), were married in Wellfleet in 1870. Generations of Whorfs and Bakers dating back to the mid-1600's had lived along the Atlantic coast in towns stretching from Cape Cod, Mass. to Falmouth, Maine. Many were fishermen, seaman, sea captains, and ship builders. Isaiah had gone on several fishing voyages but instead apprenticed himself to learn the tailoring trade. Their first child, Frances Ann Whorf (1872-1872), died at age four months. Shortly after Harry's birth the couple moved to the Boston area. Records¹ show in 1875 Isaiah living and working in Chelsea, Mass. In Boston Isaiah found work in the "ready-made" clothing business, a rapidly growing segment that was replacing tailor-made clothing.² Directories of the era³ list Isaiah's occupation alternately as tailor, pattern maker, cutter, and foreman.

Records are sparse, but Harry's father Isaiah must have been very successful in the clothing business. Both Isaiah and

Harry Whorf and Sadie Lee at the Pauline St. School circa 1889

Winthrop Collection, 1881 - Winthrop Public Library & Museum

View the Winthrop Public Library & Museum's Whorf Collection of photographs

Winthrop Collection - Winthrop Public Library & Museum

Read Harry's unfinished story about his childhood in Winthrop

The slides that I have were, at one time, part of the huge collection but the Boston and Cape Cod scenes were given to my Dad by his grandmother (my great-grandmother) back in the 1960s. She did talks all around the Boston area for women's clubs and these slides were presented along with her talks which included lots of history and nature.

I may have mentioned this earlier, but I have the projector that she used back in the 1930s. I can imagine that the hand-colored slides must have been an eye-opener for people who were so used to looking at black & white.

The fact that the film used by the Kodak No. 3 camera is the same size as the lantern slide makes me think that Harry simply contact printed the negative onto the Lantern Slide Plate (dry plate?). Am I correct about that? He likely had a darkroom for that stage of the development, but more than likely sent his roll negative film back to Kodak for development. I wish that I had more of the "before" equipment so that we could really determine what his methods were, but I have only the "after" hand-colored slides, the projector and a few note cards about some of the views.

Thank you again, very much for your time and thoughts. I will look forward to your summary and anything else that might help me understand the process better. I am hoping to do something with the digitized slides ... a book, an exhibit, an article. I think that people who love Cape Cod and Provincetown would find these interesting ... I would hope!

Very best wishes,

Amy

continued next page

Lantern Slide Process continued

In Summary

Amy you have a special and precious set of colorful lantern slides that are from a creative and talented Great-grandfather.

Images of your Great-grandfather and Grandfather and samples of there work are shown here.

It was very possible that your compact cameras of the 1910 era. Cameras that would capture and image as a negative then turned into a lantern slide.

Having the empty boxes for Eastman Lantern Slide plates could be from using those plates in contact with the Kodak film negatives and processing those lantern slide plates into positive slide images.

If some of his older negatives were larger than lantern slide size then they would have required a copy camera to reduce the image onto the lantern slide plates.

Thank you Amy for sharing your story and slide images. I know that myself and other members of the Magic Lantern



Harry in 1920
Great-grandfather

**Print of glass plate by
Harry C. Whorf
View towards Town Hall and
Methodist Church 1880**



<https://winthropmemorials.org/people/notable/whorf/>



John Whorf in Provincetown, about 1923
Grandfather

**John Whorf, Rainy Day, 1932,
watercolor, wax crayon, and charcoal**



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Whorf

Society enjoy and appreciate your family's history and high quality slide images.

We all would be interested in any book, exhibit or article you might create and of course viewing more of those great slide images.

If you share the images and your thoughts about the collection and its value and contribution to the community, I will post in a future E-pub.

Regards,
Larry

From Amy

Hi Larry:

Thank you so much for the story.

I had no idea that you were working on something like this. It looks amazing and I certainly appreciate the interest you have had in my slides and your kind words about them. I have a much better understanding of how my great-grandfather might have made these slides and the equipment he might have used. We'll never know for sure, but I can imagine him with that nice camera.

I am in the process of talking with a publisher about a book of the slides and will certainly let you know what the outcome might be. It would be a great honor to be able to send you a book of this collection.

You've been very helpful and I appreciate your time and interest.

Very best wishes,

Amy

Questions about a Balopticon

From Ann Littlewood

annlittlewood3@gmail.com

If space permits and this is otherwise appropriate, I'd like to put the following in the next newsletter. I've attached photos, trusting that the editor will choose the appropriate ones. Best regards,
Ann Littlewood

I have acquired a Balopticon of unknown vintage. I can't find the exact equivalent online. I'm guessing it was intended for home use, given how small it is. The body, bellows, and lenses seem to be in good condition. It even has a bulb, but I'm not willing to try the ancient plug to see if it works.

I hope someone in this society can help me with these questions.

1. When was this made?
2. It appears to be missing the front lens as well as the slide holder. Any ideas on how to find these parts?
3. Are there any special tricks to getting it rewired?



4. Is there anyone anywhere near Portland, Oregon, who restores these machines?

I can be contacted at annlittlewood3@gmail.com. Thanks for any advice or assistance.

Ann Littlewood

From David Evans

Hello Ann

This appears to be a Balopticon Model B and could date from the mid 1910s to the early 1930s. You do need an objective (projection) lens, and it is possible one of our members may have one available. Otherwise an eBay search might reveal one. You need to know accurately the internal diameter of the holder that is attached to the front of the lantern and you should aim for a focal length of perhaps 8" or 10". If you are only going to use it at home a 6" one might do.



continued next page

Questions about a Balopticon continued

When re-wiring, it would be best to use a modern LED lamp, which could be battery powered, so no wiring necessary, or a quartz halogen lamp would do. If you use the existing 500 watt bulb it will all get very hot and might damage the slides.

Regarding slide carriers, you might want to look out for one that can be used for 3 1/4" square slides as well as 4" x 3 1/4" ones, eBay might be a useful source of these.

We will add your enquiry to our next e-publication (March) and hope that a member may be able to help you. I don't know of anyone in Oregon at present.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans



A Big Thank You to the following:

Ron Easterday
David Evans
Bob Gregory
Erkki Huhtamo
Ann Littlewood
Amy Whorf McGuiggan
Brian Rogers
Matthew G. Schmidt

**for contributing
to this months issue.**

Welcome New Member

Eric Kurland

North Hollywood, CA

Eric's email dreamer@workprint.com

Welcome Returning Member

Ann Littlewood

Portland, OR

Ann annlittlewood3@gmail.com

Ann was a new member in 2022.